

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SP-02 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/040 W

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R 011124Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 336

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10370

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: USINJC, TECH, IN

SUBJ: INDO-US SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION

REF: STATE 100491

1. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ABOUT INDIAN REACTION TO PROPOSED DATES FOR S&T SUBCOMMISSION MEETING HERE IN SEPTEMBER.

2. WE DON'T CARE WHAT FORM AN ASSURANCE OF MUTUAL SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS TAKES. INCLUSION OF A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO GOVT ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR SUBCOMMISSION PROJECTS IN COMMUNIQUE AT THE TIME OF THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IS FINE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT POLITICAL WILL IS THE KEY FACTOR, AND A FORMAL UNDERTAKING THROUGH THE JOINT COMMISSION COMMUNIQUE APPROACH WILL BE HELPFUL TO CONCERNED GOI OFFICIALS IN THIS REGARD.

3. WE DO NOT THINK YOU ARE CORRECT, HOWEVER, IN ASSUMING THAT THIS PROBLEM IN THE PAST HAS BEEN UNRELATED TO PROPER CLEARANCES. INDEED, MEA HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO US THAT IN THE PAST THEIR CLEARANCES OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY PRO-FORMA

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AND THEY HAVE NOT FOCUES ON THE SUBSTANCE AND POTEN-

TIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT ALL. THEY ARE CORRECTING THIS NOW. THE MEA'S AMERICAS DESK, FOR EXAMPLE, IS EVEN AT THIS TIME COMPLETELY UNINFORMED (AND NERVOUS ABOUT THIS) ON EXISTING CONTRACTS WITH US MILITARY-RELATED LABORATORIES, AND HAS ASKED US FOR A LIST OF SUCH PROJECTS (WHICH WE WILL PROVIDE).

4. WE DO NOT THINK YOU SHOULD ANTICIPATE THAT ON THE MOSQUITO PROJECT THE GOI WILL "REPAIR DAMAGE DONE BY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CHARGES BY A PUBLIC REFUTATION." CONCEIVABLY, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AMY ISSUE SOME KIND OF AUXILIARY WHITE PAPER TO THE ONE THEY ISSUED EARLIER, OR REITERATE THAT THEY STAND BY THAT EARLIER PAPER, BUT WE WULDN'T COUNT ON THIS. BUT LET'S NOT GET OURSELVES HUNG UP ON A SPECIFIC MEA CULPA BY THE INDIANS ON A PROJECT WHICH IS NOW OVER AND DONE WITH SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED. ALL KEY SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS (THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, THE HEALTH SECRETARY, NAG CHAUDARI) HAVE TOLD US THEY RECOGNIZE THAT A RECURRENCE OF THE MOSQUITO MESS HAS TO BE AVOIDED. WE SEE NO PURPOSE IN RUBBING NOSES IN THAT PROJECT ANY FURTHER, PROVIDING WE DO GET SOME PUBLIC COMMITMENT FOR THE FUTURE, AS SUGGESTED IN YOUR REFTEL AND PARA 2 ABOVE SO THAT BOTH SIDES HENCEFORTH ARE ON RECORD ABOUT "PROTECTION" FOR PROJECTS WHICH ARE MUTUALLY AGREED ON. SAXBE

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL NOT IDENTIFIED.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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